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June 30, 2000

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 7781.0013-00

Box PATENT APPLICATION Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: New U.S. Patent Application

Title: VALUE CHAIN OPTIMIZATION

SYSTEM AND METHOD

Inventors: Stefan HACK, Michael AUGSBURGER

and Miho BIRIMISA

Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above patent application.

- 1. Application 30 pages, including 7 independent claims and 57 claims total.
- 2. Drawings 9 sheets of formal drawings (Figures 1-7).
- 3. A check for \$1,668.00 representing a \$690.00 filing fee and \$978.00 for additional claims.

The application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 based on Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/191,452, filed March 23, 2000.

This application is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f). Applicant(s) await notification from the Patent and Trademark Office of the time set for filing the Declaration.

Please accord this application a serial number and filing date.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees due and any other fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 during the pendency of this application to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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MAK:lad Enclosures